

News Release



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Railroad Museum Calls Out for Volunteers!

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Fascinated by railroading history? Interested in working on a train? Enjoy working with visitors, children and school groups? California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP) are now recruiting adults (18 or older) who are interested in volunteering to help communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush. The volunteer orientation will begin in October with classes held on Monday and Wednesday evenings along with some Saturday sessions. Interested volunteers must apply and be interviewed in advance. Volunteer applications are being accepted now through October 2, 2013.

A background in history is not required. In fact, most of the volunteers began with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush. As individuals become more familiar with the Museum's varied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to community organizations about the Museum. Upon graduation, new docents can choose to work in the Museum interacting with visitors from around the world, working in the railroad restoration shops on rare and unique railroad equipment, work on the Sacramento Southern Excursion Railroad, or other jobs in this dynamic and fun environment.

Volunteer training represents a serious commitment of 84 volunteer hours annually, but the hours are flexible and the rewards can be tremendous. Docents get perks such as a discount at the Museum store, preferential and/or early access to some special events and the pride of working at North America's largest and most extensive railroad-related museum.

Anyone who has ever visited the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento SHP has undoubtedly crossed paths with a docent. Each year, approximately 600 men and women volunteer for the California State Railroad Museum's programs -- including weekend steam train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work. Since the Museum's 1976 inception, volunteers have contributed more than two million hours of service.

Volunteer applications can be downloaded at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25583. Completed applications can be emailed to volunteers.capital@parks.ca.gov or mailed/delivered to the Volunteer Coordinator, Capital District, 111 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814. More information is available by calling 916-323-9280 or 916-475-7969.

About the California State Railroad Museum

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or call (916) 445-6645.

For More, Visit www.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict